

How brief can this comment be? How brief will your site require my comment to be?

I just watched Bill Moyers on public television. Public television and radio are the only broadcast source of information that I feel that I can rely upon. The networks - CBS, FOX, etc. - all have the same stories on their evening news, their special reports, and their talking head Sunday programs. The sameness is incredible. This week it is, in addition to Iraq, something about somebody named Peterson, I think the name is, who was or may be charged with murder or infanticide in California. Who decided that this was to be the big story of the week?

It may be that a bunch of small news outlets will "go with the flow", that they will follow each other with the same stories, more than the big networks will. But the big boys will be guaranteed to fill up their airtime with what they know will sell to their sponsors. At least if there is an abundance of broadcasters, they will not be obliged to follow the line from the corporate decision makers. They will be free to make their own mistakes.

I am absolutely frightened of concentration of voices into just a few powerful media voices. How can that be in the public interest?

I'll admit that I don't know the details of the pending rules or proposals or whatever they are. I am not a broadcaster or connected in any way with journalism or broadcasting or advertising. I'm just a regular person, a probate lawyer who tries to keep up with the big issues facing the world and my country and state and community. And for the past few years I have been concerned about diversity of opinion, or, more accurately, about the effectiveness of exposure to diverse opinions.

If there were ever a decision which called for careful, unpressured, measured, considered, and, yes, leisurely judgment, it would be a decision allowing further concentration of power in a smaller number of decision influencers. If there is such a word as influencers. But you get my point.

I'm sure that there are lots of points that I don't know about, lots of considerations to take into account that I have not thought about, or even heard of. Which kind of makes my point, doesn't it?

Yours sincerely,

Robbie Horrell